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## **A RESTORATIVE VISIT WITH THE RUSSELLS**

*by Raymond O. Waldkoetter, EdD*

*We've often remarked on the global nature of the TMI community. Ray Waldkoetter shares a vignette from his visit with two British family members who now reside in Scotland.*

Prior to a conference in Rotterdam, Holland, I contacted Jill and Ronald (Russ) Russell in their new Scottish location. With only a little notice they graciously invited me to stop on my way home to experience their new "Monroe Europe" site and the hospitality at Greenhead House.

The Russells relocated from Cambridge, England, early in June 1994. New Galloway is situated in the smallest Royal Burgh in Scotland, with a population of less than a thousand. The village, founded in 1633, sits at the head of Loch Kess amid beautiful countryside—hills, forests, moorland pastures, and rivers. The sea is only about twenty miles away. As for the weather, "They've had plenty of sunshine so far and seen more rainbows since their arrival than they have in the rest of their lives!" Greenhead House dates from about 1760 and began life as a small farmhouse. It has grown through the years and is now quite handsome, with a lovely, wellstocked garden, a stream, and an eighteenth-century washhouse and piggery. Greenhead was once the dower house for nearby Kenmure Castle, now unhappily in ruins.

Since coming to their new home, Jill and Russ have had over thirty-five visitors, including at least six from the United States and four who have taken courses at the Institute. Additionally, numerous friends have called on their way farther north (New Galloway's main roads are rather like scenic Virginia byways). Between visits, there are the garden and house to sort out and the adjustment to a different pace of life. Of living there they say, "Well, it's sometimes like a really good Focus 15 experience—the state of 'no time' for non-Monrovians. Our cat, Suki, feels the same way."

Being a bit out of the mainstream has not prevented the Russells from receiving several Monroe inquiries. Their plans are to begin short residential courses in 1995. Interesting prospects include a possible visit to Slovakia in spring to do workshops. Of course, they hope to be in Virginia in July. It was a hard decision to forgo the 1994 Professional Seminar and miss seeing their friends and sharing the program energy.

Refreshed and invigorated by my short stay in the personal warmth and charm of Greenhead, I said reluctant goodbyes to go to the Glasgow airport on November 2. On departure, the Russells repeated their loving invitation to all, "Remember, this is open house and you are always welcome to visit. Our love to you and everyone and we hope to see you next year—either here or there."

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